Directives to States for computer education

†362. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued the necessary directives to the States to enforce compulsory computer education in all the Government and private schools, colleges and universities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government is taking various measures to facilitate the schools, colleges and universities in their efforts to impart computer education. As informed by the UGC, it has been providing financial assistance for setting up of Computer Centres and upgradation of existing Computer Centres in the eligible universities. The colleges declared fit to receive Central assistance under Sections 2(f) and 12-B of the UGC Act are also provided financial assistance to procure computer and popularise computer culture in the colleges. Similarly, under the revised Scheme of Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS), launched by the Government during 2001-02, grant-in-aid is provided to State Government/ Union Territories on the basis of Computer Education Plan (CEP) submitted by them. The grant-in-aid is provided on priority basis for the Government and Government aided schools, which have an elective subject.

Requirement of schools

†363. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the number of schools required for admitting all the children of 6 to 14 years of age of the country;

(b) if so, what would be the number of such schools and the number of the existing schools; and

(c) the assessment of the number of schools required to be opened in each State in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) It has been estimated that 11.35 lakh additional classrooms would be required to accommodate all children in the age group of 6—14 years. This includes both new schools and additional classrooms to be added to the existing schools. The exact number of new schools to be opened would depend on the requirement projected by the State Governments in District Elementary Education Plans based on habitation level planning.

The number of existing primary and upper primary schools (as on 30.9.2000) is 8.45 lakhs.

Common teaching for normal and mentally retarded children

†364. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the arrangements made for special training, to teach mentally retarded children in the schools for normal children, so that the needs of mentally retarted child can be understood, alongwith the normal children;

(b) if not, whether there is any proposal to start B.Ed. programme for the menatlly retarded and normal children together, in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) University Grants Commission (UGC) and Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) have taken a number of steps to facilitate special education in Universities/Colleges for physically as well as mentally challenged persons.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.